



# DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

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July 14, 2011

Mike Chotkowski  
Regional Environmental Officer  
United States Bureau of Reclamation,  
Mid-Pacific Region  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Chotkowski:

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P. Joseph Grindstaff

**Re: Independent Review Panel's Summary Report on the Draft Plan for Adaptive Management of Fall Outflow for Delta Smelt Protection and Water Supply Reliability**

The Delta Science Program is pleased to present the enclosed report entitled "Review Panel Summary Report, Draft Plan for Adaptive Management of Fall Outflow for Delta Smelt Protection and Water Supply Reliability" dated July 1, 2011. The transmittal of this report fulfills a request from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to provide independent external review of the draft plan for adaptive management of fall outflow, a plan for implementation of one of the RPA actions in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's OCAP biological opinion.

The overall goal of this peer review was to inform USBR about the scientific strengths and weaknesses of the draft plan and to make recommendations for improvements. Recognizing the urgency in developing a scientifically robust plan to take advantage of the potential opportunity afforded by this year's abundant precipitation, the panel has worked very quickly to provide this report.

The independent review panel consisted of Dr. Ernst Peebles, Dr. Peter Goodwin, Dr. Hans Paerl, Dr. Rick Taylor, Dr. Denise Reed, and Dr. William Sobczak. These panel members were selected for their expertise and reputation concerning estuarine ecology, native fish biology and ecology, adaptive management, and hydrodynamics. The panel met on June 13-14, 2011.

Detailed information on the review of the draft plan for Adaptive Management of Fall Outflow can be found at the Delta Science Program web page (<http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/independent-review-draft-plan-adaptive-management-fall-outflow-delta-smelt-protection-and-water-supply>). The Delta Science Program was pleased to assist in the process of providing independent peer review for the draft plan. If there are any questions about the independent review panel report, or the overall process, please contact Sam Harader, Program Manager for the Delta Science Program, at (916) 445-5466.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Clifford N. Dahm".

Clifford N. Dahm, Ph.D.  
Lead Scientist, Delta Science Program

Enclosures

Coequal goals means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.